

Access to Health Care, Behavioral Health Risks, and Health Conditions Among Rhode Island Adults in 2006



Rhode Island Department of Health, December 2007
Center for Health Data and Analysis

Introduction

This report presents data on health related indicators for Rhode Island adults, based on data from Rhode Island's 2006 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS).

About the BRFSS: The BRFSS is a telephone survey administered in all 50 states and 4 U.S. territories with funding and specifications from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The BRFSS monitors the prevalence of behavioral health risks that contribute to the leading causes of disease and death among adults 18 years and older in the United States. It also monitors access to health care and certain health conditions. Rhode Island has participated in the BRFSS since 1984.

Rhode Island's BRFSS: From January through December 2006, the Rhode Island BRFSS conducted approximately 376 random-digit dialed telephone interviews each month with adults 18 and older, for a total of 4,515 during the calendar year. The sample was comprised of 1,652 males and 2,863 females; 3,844 were White, non-Hispanic, 348 were Hispanic, and 265 were other, non-Hispanic. Rhode Island's 2006 survey was conducted by a professional survey organization under contract to the Rhode Island Department of Health.

In this Report: This report presents 2006 data for 3 health care access indicators, 4 risk behaviors, and 4 mental health indicators. The data are presented by gender and by race/ethnicity. "Error" bars represent the 95% confidence limits around the values calculated from the sample data. A 95% confidence limit means there is only a 5% chance that the true value is NOT included within the span of the error bar.

Highlights

- ❖ **The current smoking rate (19%) for RI adults has dropped below 20% for the first time since BRFSS tracking began in 1984.**
- ❖ Ten percent of adults ages 18-64 lacked health insurance, 10% could not see a doctor when they needed to due to cost, and 20% had no dental visit in the past year. Almost 2 in 3 are overweight, and 22% do not use a seatbelt when driving or riding in a car. (Fig 1)
- ❖ Men are at higher risk than women for a number of health indicators: 12% (vs. 8%) ages 18 – 64 were uninsured, 21% (vs. 18% of women) had no dental visit in the past year. Almost 3 in 4 men (vs. 1 in 2 women) were overweight, and 29% (vs. 16% of women) did not always wear a seatbelt when riding or driving. However, women are at higher risk for current depression (11% vs. 6%), ever depression (21% vs. 12%) and ever anxiety (18% vs. 8%). Seventy-eight percent of sexually active women (vs. 67% of men) ages 18-49 did not use a condom the last time they had sexual intercourse. (Fig 2)
- ❖ Rates for only a few variables were significantly different from one another by race/ethnicity. Hispanic adults have higher rates than white, non-Hispanic, and other, non-Hispanics for 3 of the 11 health risks: 37% of Hispanic adults were uninsured (compared with 7% and 18%); 31% could not see a doctor when they needed to due to cost (vs. 7% and 12%), and 31% had no dental visit in the past year (vs. 19% and 18%). Hispanics as well as Other, non-Hispanics had higher rates than White non-Hispanics for current depression (14% and 15% vs 8%). (Fig 3)

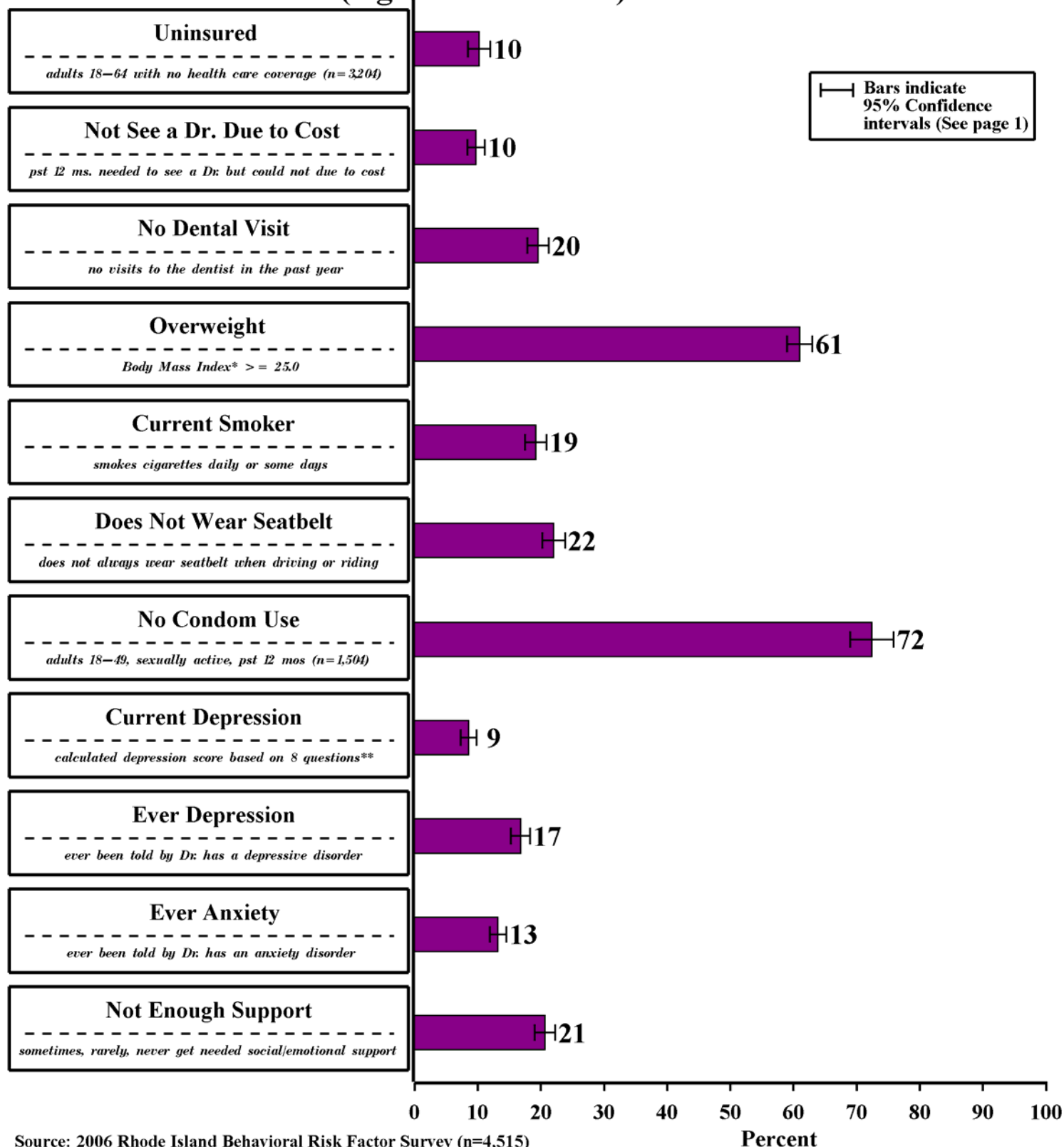
Acknowledgements: The RI BRFSS is funded in part by the Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion Programs Cooperative Agreement #U58/CCU122791 from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

For further information: Go to <http://www.health.ri.gov/chic/statistics/brfss.php>, <http://www.health.ri.gov/webquery/index.html>, <http://www.cdc.gov/brfss>, or contact the Center for Health Data and Analysis, RI Department of Health (401-222-2550).

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Figure 1
Health Risks Among Rhode Island Adults
(Ages 18 and older) -- 2006

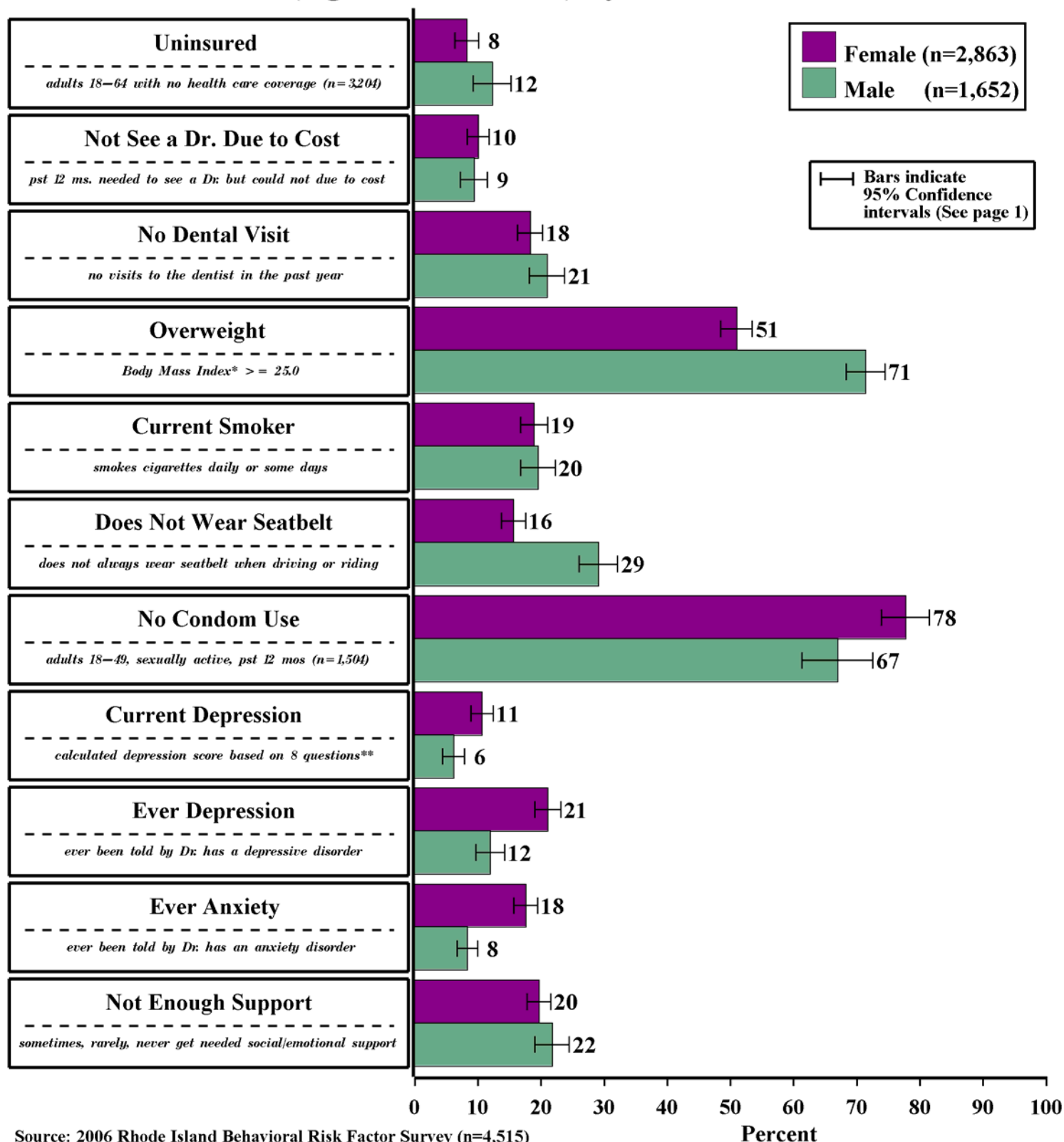


Source: 2006 Rhode Island Behavioral Risk Factor Survey (n=4,515)

* Body Mass Index = weight in kilograms / (height in meters)²

** Current Depression: A score >=10 on the depression severity scale

Figure 2
Health Risks Among Rhode Island Adults
(Ages 18 and older) by sex -- 2006

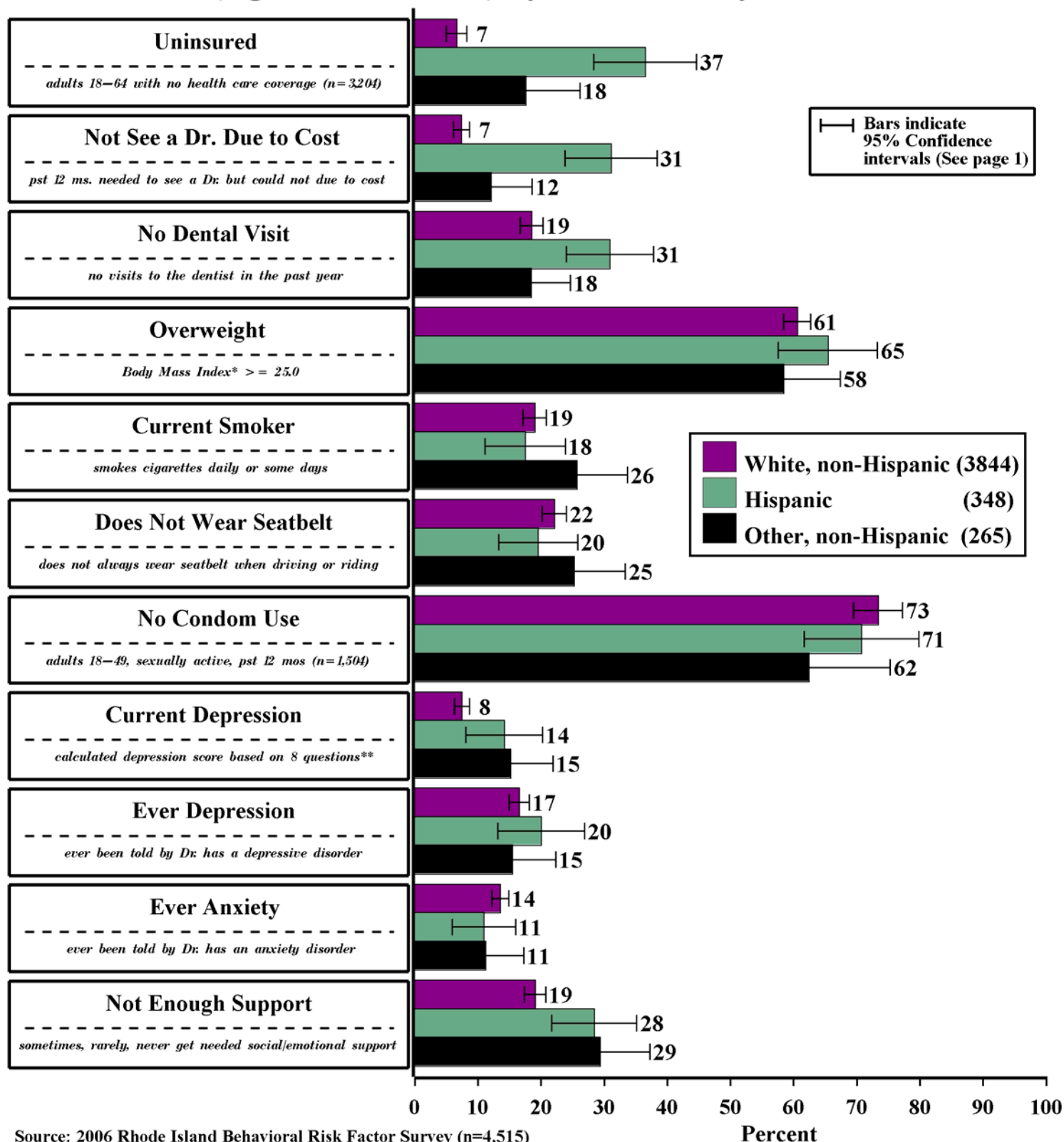


Source: 2006 Rhode Island Behavioral Risk Factor Survey (n=4,515)

* Body Mass Index = weight in kilograms / (height in meters)²

** Current Depression: A score >=10 on the depression severity scale

Figure 3
Health Risks Among Rhode Island Adults
 (Ages 18 and older) by race/ethnicity -- 2006



Source: 2006 Rhode Island Behavioral Risk Factor Survey (n=4,515)

* Body Mass Index = weight in kilograms / (height in meters)²

** Current Depression: A score >=10 on the depression severity scale